

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of Senator Hall's amendment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Hall amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Labedz would move to amend the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. The amendment that I am proposing to LB 663 makes more specific the qualifications to be minimum standards for persons giving abortion information and providing the abortion counseling. In an Akron case which is the basis for LB 663 that I introduced last year, the United States Supreme Court said the following and I quote: "We cannot say that the woman's consent to the abortion will not be informed if a physician delegates the counseling to another qualified individual," and I stress the word qualified. "In so holding," it went on to say, "we do not suggest that the state is powerless to vindicate the interest in making certain the important and stressful decision to abort is made with the full knowledge of its nature and consequences. A state may define the physician's responsibility to include verification that adequate counseling has been provided and that the woman's consent is informed. In addition the state may establish reasonable minimum qualifications for those people who perform the primary counseling function." Now, I go on to say myself since the abortion doctor cannot be required to personally counsel the woman seeking abortion, my amendment lists the requirements for those who do provide the counseling and that it would require those persons to have some type of training in sexual and reproductive health in abortion technology. Also in contraceptive technology, in short-term counseling skills, in community resources and referral and informed consent, all of which are approved in the...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Could we have order, please, we can't hear the speaker.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I hope I am speaking loud enough. If not, please advise me. The abortion doctor has the discretion to decide whether these